

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Paranetics Technology

Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Paranetics Technology Meets Demands of U.S. Military with Help from Arizona MEP

Client Profile:

Paranetics Technology assembles large cargo chutes for multiple military applications, mostly for dropping large supplies and vehicles into targeted areas. The company currently employs 40 people at its facility in San Luis, Arizona.

Situation:

Paranetics had a contract to supply 12 parachutes a day to the military and was asked to increase their production to as many as 20 a day to support military demands offshore. The company contacted the Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Arizona MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to help them understand their inefficiencies and bottlenecks to not only meet their current demand but also to decide on actions needed to increase their production without sacrificing quality and lead time.

Solution:

Arizona MEP conducted a Basics of Lean workshop for all company employees. The class was offered in Spanish to accommodate the primarily Hispanic workforce. Arizona MEP provided a Value Stream Mapping (VSM) event and Kaizen for a better cell layout. The benefits of the Basics workshop improved the understanding of the employees on what to look for to improve their performance on the product line. Evaluation of the VSM identified what steps in the process controlled meeting the daily goal. This process was determined to be the Cross Sew step. To support this operation, hourly goals were set and posted for each department to ensure the sewing operation always had just the right amount of work. Once sufficient inventory was completed to support sew, workers from the upstream departments helped Cross-Sew stay on pace by assisting in the movement of material at the sewing machines.

Results:

Estimated:

- * Increased sales of \$750,000.
- * Cost savings of \$25,000.
- * Increased production by 30 percent.

Testimonial:

"Our company is hoping to increase our output due to increased demand from the U.S. military, and we are looking for ways to perform on a new level. The Arizona MEP got to the root of our organizational and production issues, and we are making sustainable changes."

Rakan Alamet, President

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